



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

was done in rivalry, for the edification of a female under another tree a few yards distant.

I have heard them utter only two notes, the more common being a high-pitched squeak with a decided burr to it, somewhat similar to that of the Dwarf, which latter, however, lacks the burr. The other note, rarely heard, is like the least discordant note of the overture to the Yellow-headed Blackbird's song.

The birds, as stated, stay around the barnyard where they pick up corn and other grains and scraps from the table thrown to the chickens; and they also remain around the school yard, where they eat watermelon set in the shade for birds of all kinds. They are sometimes seen in company with the Dwarf Cowbirds, but they make them stand back when there is refreshment at hand. The Thrashers are about the only birds that do not take a back seat for them at the table, though they seem to observe a sort of truce with the Gila Woodpeckers, and eat from the same slice of melon. Sometimes one, and sometimes the other, gets peevish and ends the truce.

Sacaton, Arizona, July 26, 1914.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Arizona Records.—The following notes were suggested by the reading of Swarth's recently published "Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona". The records of the Band-tailed Pigeon breeding in the Santa Rita Mountains apparently give an additional breeding station for the species within the state, but with this exception my remarks are mainly directed toward the correction of mistakes, which in one way or another have grown up about records made many years ago.

Band-tailed Pigeon. *Columba fasciata*. There apparently are no published statements of the breeding of this bird in the Santa Rita Mountains. Two nests were found by me in this range, in the vicinity of Greaterville, with data as follows. One on July 6, 1884, the nest made of fine twigs, laid across a horizontal fork of a small branch of a pine tree, about twenty feet from the ground. Parent bird seen on the nest. Incubation advanced. The second was found July 18, 1884. It also contained one egg, was placed in an oak tree, twelve feet from the ground, and the parent bird was flushed from the nest. Incubation begun.

In this connection I wish, for the sake of emphasis, to repeat the statement I have already made (CONDOR xv, 1913, p. 129), in regard to an early nest I found in the Laguna Mountains, San Diego County, California, on March 6, 1877. This record was mistakenly applied to Arizona by Bendire (Life Hist. N. Am. Birds, i, 1892, p. 124), giving an erroneous idea of the length of the breeding season in that state. It has, in fact, been cited for that very purpose by Grinnell (CONDOR xv, 1913, p. 32) in his excellent account of the species. As a matter of fact the Band-tailed Pigeon is a late breeder in Arizona, the season when eggs may be found extending approximately from the first of July until toward the end of September. In the hope of correcting a mistake of long standing I may be excused for repeating this statement.

Baird Sparrow. *Ammodramus bairdi*. Two specimens collected by myself, one on August 29, the other August 30, 1884, about eight miles north of Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico. These birds were recorded by Brewster (*Auk*, ii, 1885, p. 198). Mr. Swarth has not included this record in his "List", perhaps being under the impression that it represents a Mexican locality, but the point of capture was north of the United States-Mexican boundary line, and in Arizona, about seventy miles southwest of Tucson.

Slate-colored Sparrow. *Passerella iliaca schistacea*. Three specimens taken by myself on Big Sandy Creek, near Signal, Mohave County, Arizona. A female shot February 6, and two males, February 9, 1880. Brewster's record for Tucson (*Auk*, ii, 1885, p. 198) was a mistake, as it referred to one of these birds.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California*.

The Struggle for Existence.—On the west coast of Florida some of the bays and inlets are famous spawning grounds for mullet, a fish weighing from two to ten pounds. They swim in large schools near the surface, and are a favorite food of the fish hawk, which is not an uncommon bird upon that coast.

One day, on the shore of Sarasota Bay, I was watching a female fish hawk circling above a large school of mullet, swimming so close in that their protruding noses could be plainly seen dimpling the smooth waters of the bay. After a few unsuccessful attempts she dropped with extended talons, seized a fish, and after a distressing struggle, made a low rise and started toward the shore. Her labored flight indicated a heavy burden, and even from a distance it was evident that she had struck an unusually large fish. With manifest effort she tugged at her task with the chances in her favor, when from a high dead stub of a tall pine, a male eagle with rapid flight descended from above and struck the fish hawk in the back so that she was almost capsized in the air, the fish being above her. With rapid beating and fluttering of the wings she righted herself and with increasing effort proceeded on her way. The eagle also righted, and with nervous speed, again rose above his victim and after two small circles with extending neck and outstretched feet, he shot once more down upon his prey. This time the force of the impact completely overturned the hawk, who, beginning to fall, let go the fish, recovered her equilibrium, and made off. The eagle with the swiftness of an arrow struck for the falling mullet and captured it before it struck the water. As he headed for the shore, the first few strokes of the wing disclosed that he had a burden greater than he could bear, for his flight was staggering, the wing beats short and unsteady, and although making efforts to rise, he began slowly to lose elevation. Immediately these conditions became evident, he shrieked out a clear, high whistle, that would put to shame the most popular policeman on the beat. This cry of warning was answered almost instantly by a long, quivering squeak, like that of "a young pig, stuck in a gate", and with a rustle as of a mighty wind, his mate bolting from the forest, swooped down toward her spouse. As they approached each other, the striking comparison in size became manifest; the wide, far-reaching wings, deeper, broader tail, larger body and greater weight of the female were plain to see. Renewing her warning squeal that seemed to be torn from her palpitating throat, she bore down toward him with firm, sure wing, when the male bird dropped the fish and flew away without apparent concern. The female, with a deadly grip, seized the prize, and with a confident, steady and jauntily sustained flight, rose lightly in the air as if to prove her worth, and bore it safely to the nest, now plainly visible in the high crotch of the tallest pine of the forest.

—JOHN J. BOYCE, *Berkeley, California.*

Beautiful Bunting in California.—Among recent additions to my collection obtained from Dr. J. A. Hornung, of this city, I find what is in all probability a new record for California. During February, 1914, Dr. Hornung spent a few days collecting at Blythe, Riverside County, California, in the valley of the Colorado River, where, at different times he found fifteen or twenty examples of *Passerina versicolor pulchra* feeding on roadside weeds bordering a cotton field. On February 8, he shot a female, and on the 9th he secured a male, both in winter plumage.—FRANK S. DAGGETT, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*

Notes from Sacaton, Arizona.—In looking over Swarth's *Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona* I find I have three species not included therein.

Harris Sparrow. *Zonotrichia querula*. A male secured March 16, 1913, from a small flock of Intermediate Sparrows. Identified by W. W. Cooke, and recorded by him in *The Auk*, vol. 31, July, 1914, p. 403.

Sierra Sapsucker. *Sphyrapicus varius daggetti* (*S. ruber ruber* of the A. O. U. Check-List). A female taken February 9, 1910, and a male on October 5, 1910.

Ring-necked Duck. *Aythya collaris*. A male secured February 19, 1910.

There seem to be very few records of the Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata nanus*) from Arizona, but I have taken three of the birds, as follows: A female at Blackwater, ten miles east of Sacaton, on the Gila River, identified by Joseph Grinnell; a female at Agua Caliente about one hundred miles down the Gila River from Sacaton; and a male at Sacaton, September 18, 1910. The one at Blackwater was taken March 7, 1908, and the one at Agua Caliente, April 12, 1909.

February 15, 1910, I secured a Tree Swallow, *Iridoprocne bicolor*, from a small flock that flew about a stream of water during a shower. I have seen two Audubon Caracaras (*Polyborus cheriway*), one on each side of the Gila River, and also the head, wings and tail of one shot at Sacaton by an Indian.

September 4, 1910, I secured a male Anna Hummingbird, *Calypte anna*. Two Rufous Hummingbirds, *Selasphorus rufus*, immature males, were secured the same year, one September 4, the other October 1.—M. FRENCH GILMAN, *Sacaton, Arizona*.

Migrations of the Gannet.—If any correspondent would be so good as to inform me of any authenticated occurrence of the Gannet (*Sula bassana*) in any part of the Caribbean Sea, or off the shores of Panama, Venezuela or Columbia, I should be greatly obliged, as information is lacking on the points. The Gannet (*Sula bassana*) is stated to make an annual migration in the winter to the Gulf of Mexico, which is some 2500 miles from its Canadian breeding-places—Bird Rocks and Bonaventure. It has been identified, although not actually obtained, at Trinidad island, lat. $10^{\circ} 50' N$ (see *The Field*, April 17, 1897, p. 586), but it must be a very occasional visitant so far south as this, and there is no other notice of it on such a latitude. According to Mr. Beebe it is not uncommon off Vera Cruz (*Bird Lovers in Mexico*, p. 381).—J. H. GURNEY, *Keswick, England*.

New Breeding Records for California.—Early last spring the services of Mr. Adriaan van Rossem were engaged by my brother and myself for a collecting trip which was to start from Los Angeles, going northerly through Los Angeles County to the Tejon Pass, take in some of the Buena Vista Lake country, then cross the valley past Bakersfield toward the more northeastern part of Kern County, to the South Fork of Kern River. The writer hoped to join the expedition but was compelled by developments to abandon the idea, to his great regret. Tejon Pass was one of the halting places on the itinerary, and there a small number of *Gallinago delicata* were found breeding, making the first nesting record in southern California, or for any part of the state south of the extreme northern portion.

Mr. van Rossem's notes regarding this find are as follows:—(Near Gorman, Tejon Pass, Los Angeles County, California, April 24, 1914) "Wilson's Snipe are fairly common. About a dozen in all were seen. While walking toward one of the Redwing's nests I kicked against a small tussock of grass and flushed a snipe which merely fluttered a few feet and stood watching me. A glance downward revealed the nest, and the bird was promptly 'auxed' for positive identification." This bird is now number 7636, and the set number 4269/4-14, collection of J. & J. W. Mailliard. Incubation was so far advanced as to necessitate drilling out a very large hole, cutting the embryo into small bits with scissors and removing the pieces with forceps. In the center of the bunch of grass above referred to, which was about one foot in diameter and two in height, in a swampy area, the nest was situated, it being "simply a few fine grasses, probably pulled from the stems directly beside the nest, as several bare stalks were noticed."

Other individuals, according to van Rossem's notes, showed indications of anxiety regarding the spots from which they were flushed, and, as no more nests were found, doubtless had young ones hidden nearby.

Another record is that of the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus a. obscurus*) near Buena Vista Lake, where the nest of a Western Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila c. obscura*) was found containing three of the owner's eggs and one of the Dwarf Cowbird, the contrast in size between the two varieties being very marked. This set was taken on May 12, 1914, and is now number 4273/3-1-14, collection of J. & J. W. M.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.